

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #79
Summer Announcement #72, District 6 Commercial Fishing Period #4
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The cumulative passage estimate of approximately 1,500 Chinook salmon at the Chena River tower through July 28 is well below the historical average of 6,100 for this date. Poor Chinook salmon escapement in the Chena River in recent years warrant continued caution. Conversely, summer chum passage estimates at the Chena and Salcha River towers are above the historical median for this date. Additionally, genetic stock composition analysis indicates a surplus of summer chum salmon is available for commercial harvest in the Tanana River drainage.

Regulations allow the department to open summer chum salmon directed commercial fishing periods in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B during times of Chinook salmon conservation with fish wheels only. Fish wheels must be manned at all times during operations and all Chinook salmon caught in the fish wheels must immediately be released to the water alive. Based on the current abundance of summer chum salmon, commercial fishing opportunity is being allowed in District 6 to target summer chum salmon.

The preliminary commercial harvest in District 6 through July 28 is approximately 2,700 summer chum salmon with a reported 82 Chinook salmon released alive.

Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B: Commercial fishing will be open for one 42-hour fishing period:

Period #4: 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 29, until 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 31

Fishermen are reminded that the Board of Fisheries adopted construction specifications for commercial fish wheels in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B that are intended to reduce the potential for injuring Chinook salmon while being released. Commercial fish wheels must be constructed in a manner that includes:

- a) basket sides and bottoms consisting of soft mesh material similar to or made of seine web; and
- b) an adjustable or fixed slide or chute that consists of a smooth bottom and closed cell foam lined sides.

Commercial fishermen should coordinate with the buyer on a daily basis regarding scheduling deliveries. All salmon harvested during commercial fishing operations must be recorded on a fish ticket at the time of sale. All Chinook salmon released must be recorded on the fish ticket. Other fish species caught but not sold should also be recorded on the fish ticket. These commercial fishing periods do not affect current subsistence management actions and fishing schedules.

Fishermen will be notified by August 1 regarding additional commercial fishing periods in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates are available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 or in Fairbanks call 459-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks ADF&G office at 459-7274.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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